

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 XMB-02 IO-10 /090 W

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R 160626Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1420

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

CONFIDENTIAL BUCHAREST 0182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, GE

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN PREMIER'S VISIT TO ROMANIA

1. SUMMARY. EAST GERMAN PREMIER SINDERMANN'S RECENT VISIT TO BUCHAREST TO DISCUSS EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC AND TECHINCAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES APPARENTLY RESULTED IN FEW FIRM ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS (ALTHOUGH GDR HAD PLACED PRIOR ORDER FOR ROMANIAN LOCOMOTIVES AND MAY ALSO NOW IMPORT DACIA AUTOMOBILES), BUT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF IMPROVED ROMANIAN-EAST GERMAN POLITICAL CLIMATE, AND MAY ALSO BE RESULT OF GOR'S EVER-WIDENING SEARCH FOR MARKETS. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN A STYLE AND FORMAT REMINISCENT OF JULY 1974 VISIT OF

POLISH PREMIER JAROSZEWCZ AND HIS ENTOURAGE TO ROMANIA, EAST GERMAN PRIME MINISTER HORST SINDERMANN, ACCOMPANIED BY LARGE DELEGATION OF MINISTERS AND HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (10 BY ROMANIAN MEDIA COUNT), VISITED BUCHAREST JANUARY 8-12.

DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON MEASURES TO INCREASE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DESCRIPTION OF TALKS AS TAKING PLACE WITHIN AN ATMOSPHERE OF "CONCRETE WORK" SEEMS APPROPRIATE, AS VISIT WAS SHORT ON SPEECHES AND FORMALITIES, BUT LONG ON DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH LITTLE IN WAY OF FIRM ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS SEEMS TO HAVE RESULTED. SEVEN WORKING GROUPS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WERE FORMED TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

SINDERMANN MET WITH CEAUSESCU, WHILE GDR MINISTER FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MET SEPARATELY WITH MRS. CEAUSESCU AT HER CHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE. AN INVITATION TO VISIT EAST GERMANY AT AN UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE WAS ACCEPTED BY PRIME MINISTER MANESCU.

3. A NUMBER OF PROTOCOLS WERE SIGNED CALLING FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN PRODUCTION, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES AMONG THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES, TOGETHER WITH A "COMMON PROTOCOL" OUTLINING THE AGREED WORK PROGRAM BY WHICH ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WERE TO BE EXPANDED (THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED). ON MORE CONCRETE LEVEL TWO CONVENTIONS WERE SIGNED WHICH PROVIDE FOR JOINT PRODUCTION OF HYDRAULIC LOADERS, AND FOR THE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS. DISCUSSIONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION IN THIRD MARKETS WERE ALSO HELD.

4. THE COMMUNIQUE IS RATHER ROUTINE WITH NEITHER SIDE APPARENTLY WILLING TO AGGRAVATE THE OTHER BY ACCENTUATING WELL-KNOWN DIFFERENCES; THE GDR DID, HOWEVER, GET IN A LINE ON THE STRENGTHENING OF UNITY AND COHESION AMONG SOCIALIST STATES. IN TURN THE ROMANIANS INSERTED THEIR WELL-KNOWN PRINCIPLES INTO THE INTERNATIONAL PORTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO FRG DCM, BOTH SIDES HAVE APPARENTLY INDULGED IN SOME MUTUAL CENSORSHIP - REPORTEDLY THE EAST GERMAN MEDIA DID NOT INCLUDE THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPLES IN ITS COVERAGE OF COMMUNIQUE; NOR DID THE PHRASEOLOGY RELATING TO DETENTE OR DISARMAMENT APPEAR. ALSO PRIME MINISTER MANESCU'S REFERENCE IN A TOAST TO THE POSSIBLE SIGNING OF A LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE

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TWO COUNTRIES WAS DELETED. THE ROMANIANS IN TURN APPEAR TO HAVE CENSORED SINDERMANN'S TOAST SO AS TO EXCLUDE COMMENTS ABOUT BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS ALSO STRENGTHENING CEMA RELATIONS AND TIES TO OTHER SOCIALIST STATES. SOURCE FURTHER NOTED THAT EAST GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS CONSIDERABLY HEAVIER THAN ROMANIAN MEDIA TREATMENT.) THE ABSENCE IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF ANY STATEMENT CITING THE PLO AS THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, WHICH IS STANDARD GOR VERBIAGE WHEREVER

THEY CAN INSERT IT, MAY INDICATE EAST GERMAN FEAR OF GETTING OUT IN FRONT OF MOSCOW ON THIS ISSUE.

5. COMMENT: NOW THAT THE QUESTION OF THE GOR'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FRG NO LONGER IS THE IRRITANT IT ONCE WAS, EAST GERMAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS HAVE RAPIDLY IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS, AS EVIDENCED BY LAST YEAR'S HONECKER ATTENDANCE OF ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN BERLIN AND THE HIGH-LEVEL STOPH DELEGATION SENT TO BUCHAREST AUGUST 23 CELEBRATIONS, AS WELL AS STELLAR TURN-OUT OF ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP FOR GDR NATIONAL DAY BUCHAREST RECEPTION. THIS IMPROVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL CLIMATE MAY NOW PERMIT AN EVEN CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP (ACCORDING TO THE EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR PRESENT BILATERAL TRADE IS AROUND THE 450 MILLION RUBLE FIGURE, WHILE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY CALCULATES A 28 PERCENT RISE IN GDR-GOR TRADE WITHIN THE LAST YEAR). ACCESS TO SUPERIOR EAST GERMAN TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE SLOWER-THAN-EXPECTED PACE OF TRADE WITH WESTERN EUROPE, MAY PARTLY EXPLAIN ROMANIAN INTEREST IN THE EAST GERMAN MARKET. ALSO THE EAST GERMANS PLACED A SIZEABLE ORDER FOR ROMANIAN LOCOMOTIVES AT LAST OCTOBER'S BUCHAREST TRADE FAIR, AND REPORTEDLY HAVE AGREED TO IMPORT ROMANIAN DACIA AUTOMOBILES WHICH ARE NOT SELLING WELL LOCALLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR00182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750016-1097
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750147/aaaabpn1.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EAST GERMAN PREMIER'S VISIT TO ROMANIA
TAGS: PFOR, RO, GC, (SINDERMANN, HORST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006